

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-5 L-01 SP-02

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P 072150Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1988

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4757

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: GOCR PLANS TO REPEAL VESCO LAW?

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO TOLD ME NOVEMBER 6 THAT HE HAS DRAFTED LEGISLATION FOR THE COSTA RICAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO PRESENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO REPEAL THE 1974 EXTRADITION LAW (UDSCO LAW) AND LEAVE ALL EXTRADITION MATTERS TO BE GOVERNED BY TREATY. FACIO SAID THAT PRESIDENT ODUBER HAS INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH THIS MOVE AND PLANS TO SEND THE DRAFT TO AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY IN DECEMBER.

2. SEPARATELY, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALFONSO CARRO TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 4 THAT THERE WILL BE ACTION SOON ON THE VESCO LAW WHICH, HE STATED, THE COUNTRY AND THE ASSEMBLY CANNOT CONTINUE TO TOLERATE. CARRO WAS CATEGORIC IN STATING THAT THE 1974 LAW WOULD BE REPEALED. HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS NOT YET CLEAR WAS WHAT WOULD BE THE NEXT STEP AFTER REPEAL. HE NOTED THAT IT COULD BE A NEW LAW, A RETURN TO THE 1971 LAW, OR NOTHING, I.E., DEPENDENCE UPON EXTRADITION TREATIES. CARRO SAID THAT HE WAS CONSULTING WITH THE OPPOSITION ON NEXT MOVES (HE WAS ALSO HAVING LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER THAT DAY), AND THAT ACTION COULD BEGIN THAT SAME AFTERNOON OR THE NEXT DAY. (IT DID NOT.)

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3. COMMENT: FACIO'S MESSAGE, COMBINED WITH CARRO'S,

IS THE CLEAREST AND MOST CATEGORIC THAT THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ON PLANS AND INTENT TO REPEAL THE VESCO LAW. WE CAN ONLY WAIT, OF COURSE, TO SEE IF WHAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PLN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT HAVE SAID WILL COME TO PASS. THE KEY ELEMENT, OBVIOUSLY, IS PRESIDENT ODUBER WHO, UNDOUBTEDLY, WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN I SEE HIM ON NOVEMBER 10.

4. THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT DIMENSIONS OF THIS GOCR DECISION, IF IT INDEED HAS FINALLY BEEN MADE AND IS IMPLEMENTED. ONE CONCERNS INTERNAL GOVERNMENT AND PLN POLITICS AND HAS TO DO WITH THE RECENT POLITICAL MOVES OF JOSE FIGUERES. THIS WILL BE ANALYZED SEPARATELY. THE OTHER HAS TO DO WITH ANY FUTURE U.S. EXTRADITION ATTEMPT. ONCE THE 1974 LAW IS ELIMINATED, THE FOCUS WILL CLEARLY AND POINTEDLY BE ON THE USG TO COME FORTH WITH A CONVINCING EXTRADITION CASE. IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, THAT FOCUS COULD BE ON US SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.  
TODMAN

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